



Region Three Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
1400 South 19<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
February 9, 2010  
Decision Notice for

**Blacktail Meadows FAS Proposed Cattail Mitigation  
Draft Environmental Assessment**

**Proposed Action**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposed to remove an overgrowth of cattails along the bank of the kids fishing pond at Blacktail Meadows Fishing Access Site (FAS) near Dillon. The removal of cattails would provide easier access for children, since it has become difficult to cast beyond the overgrowth of cattails along the bank of the pond.

**Montana Environmental Policy Act**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) to assess significant potential impacts of a proposed action to the human and physical environment. In compliance with MEPA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed for the proposed project by FWP and released for public comment on January 6, 2010.

Public comments on the proposed project were taken from January 6 through February 5, 2010. The EA was mailed to 24 groups and individuals.

**Summary of Public Comment**

FWP received three public comment letters for the proposed action. One comment supported the project, one comment opposed the project, and one comment suggested building a dock as a substitute for cattail removal.

**Comment Supportive of the Project**

“...we would like to see the cattails removed from the kid’s fish pond.”

This comment mentioned that the pond is for children and that the cattails can make it difficult or impossible for youth to fish.

**FWP Response:** Duly noted.

**Comment Opposed to the Project**

“There is nothing wrong with the fishing pond in Dillon – there is plenty of room for kids to fish.”

**FWP Response:** The pond was created for youth anglers, and the overgrowth of cattails makes it difficult, or impossible, for youth to fish from the bank. FWP intends to maintain the site as a youth fishing pond, which requires cattail mitigation.

#### Additional Comment

We received a comment asking, “Would it be feasible to build a dock several feet into the water in order for the kids to gain easier access to the water?”

**FWP Response:** Cattail removal will result in more accessible angling space than a dock that could be installed. Once the project is completed, the bank will allow for multiple youth of various ages to safely fish simultaneously.

#### Decision

Based on the Environmental Assessment, public comment, and FWP evaluation, it is my decision to proceed with preferred alternative B, as described in the Blacktail Meadows FAS Proposed Cattail Mitigation Draft Environmental Assessment. In the preferred alternative, FWP will remove some of the overgrowth of cattails along the bank at Blacktail Meadows FAS to improve angling for youth, which the pond was created to serve.

#### Appeal

This project is subject to appeal, which must be submitted to the FWP Director (Mr. Joe Maurier, Director, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701) in writing and postmarked within 30 days of the date on this decision notice. The appeal must specifically describe the basis for the appeal, explain how the appellant has previously commented to the department or participated in the decision-making process, and lay out how FWP may address the concerns in the appeal. If you have questions regarding this decision notice, please contact Todd Garrett, Fishing Access Site Manager at 406-994-6987.



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Gerald Walker  
Regional Parks Manager

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